

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 05400 130713Z

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ACTION NODS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8418

S E C R E T TOKYO 5400

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EYES ONLY FOR HABIB FROM AMB HODGSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PINT, JA, US

SUBJECT: CORPORATE PAYOFF DATA HANDLING

1. EVER SINCE THE LOCKHEED PAYOFF SCANDAL BROKE HERE IN JAPAN, WE HAVE DEVOTED SPECIAL ATTENTION TO PURSUING THE POSSIBILITY THAT OTHER SIMILAR INCIDENTS INVOLVING OTHER U.S. COMPANIES MAY BE ABOUT TO SURFACE AND MAGNIFY WHAT IS AN ALREADY TENSE LOCAL SITUATION. WE HAVE KEPT LINES OF COMMUNICATION OPEN TO INDUSTRY, GOVERNMENT, MEDIA AND OTHER SOURCES IN ORDER TO BE ESPECIALLY ALERT FOR SUCH DEVELOPMENTS.

2. CONSIDERING THE INTENSE MEDIA AND OTHER ATTENTION GIVEN THIS SUBJECT, WE HAVE THOUGHT IT REMARKABLE THAT NO FURTHER SIMILAR CIRCUMSTANCES HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO PUBLIC ATTENTION HERE. THUS FAR THE ONLY RUMOR OF WHICH WE HAVE BECOME AWARE IS WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTINGHOUSE CORPORATION. WE HAVE RECENTLY HEARD FROM WHAT IS CONSIDERED A FAIRLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT HE IN TURN HAS LEARNED THAT A TOKYO MAINICHI NEWSPAPER REPORTER HAS UNEARTHED SOME INFORMATION ON WHAT IS DESCRIBED AS "PAYOFFS" BY THAT CORPORATION. AT LEAST ONE OF THESE ALLEGED PAYOFFS IS SUPPOSED TO

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HAVE BEEN MADE TO AN EX-VICE-MINISTER OF MITI. TO THIS

POINT, TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS ALLEGATION HAS RECEIVED NO PUBLICITY HERE OR ELSEWHERE. THIS COULD MEAN EITHER THAT THERE IS NOTHING TO IT, THAT THE CURRENT EVIDENCE IS INSUFFICIENT, THAT THE PUBLICATION AWAITS MORE PROPITIOUS TIMING OR A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS.

3. IN ANY EVENT, WE BELIEVE A QUESTION ARISES WITH RESPECT TO HOW SUCH INFORMATION SHOULD BE TREATED IF RECEIVED BY US, ESPECIALLY IF IT SHOULD BE MORE CONCLUSIVE IN NATURE THAN THAT CITED ABOVE. NORMALLY WITH RESPECT TO REPORTS CONSIDERED TO HAVE SOME SUBSTANCE, WE BELIEVE THE EMBASSY SHOULD ADVISE DOS. IF CONTACTS WITH CORPORATION ARE TO BE CONSIDERED IN SUCH CASES, WE BELIEVE SUCH CONTACT SHOULD BE WITH CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS, NOT WITH FIELD REPRESENTATIVES.

4. ACCORDINGLY, OUR THINKING NOW IS THAT WE WILL ADVISE DOS OF ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WHICH IN OUR JUDGEMENT IS SUFFICIENTLY DEFINITIVE TO WARRANT YOUR ATTENTION AND LEAVE ANY FURTHER POSSIBLE ACTION WITH YOU. PLEASE ADVISE IF THIS NOT SUITABLE HANDLING.
HODGSON

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